



Celebrating Earth Day at Santa Rosa

Though there is debate as to what day should be the *real* Earth Day, Aruba celebrates with most of the world on April 22, with the Santa Rosa facility conducting an open house. The Santa Rosa Center is the location of the Aruban Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fishing, devoted to developing and maintaining healthy stock animals and the proliferation of native plants. The annual Earth Day celebration is a much-anticipated festive event; a great day for all the family

John McConnell created the first Earth Day, proclaimed by the City of San Francisco and celebrated on March 21, 1970. What led him to the idea was his interest in space exploration and awareness of the March Equinox, nature's primary day of global equilibrium.

In Aruba, it is a day when parents can teach their children about their environment, and protecting it. The staff of Santa Rosa enlightens visitors about the plants indigenous to the island, and they have a chance to pet and get to know the gentle animals that are raised on the farm. Other organizations, such as Stimaruba, the local chapter of the United Nation's Environmental Protection agency (UNEP) and Rainbow Warriors are also represented. Various booths are set up, and it is a day at the country fair, with local food, music, and fun. Many supplant their gardens with bargains from the Santa Rosa Nursery, and this year featured a contest to name their latest addition, a one week old kid (baby goat.)

Margaret Mead, in an address to the United Nations in 1977 said this: "Earth Day is the first completely international and universal holiday that the world has ever known. Every other holiday was tied to one place, or some political or special event. This day is tied to Earth itself, and to the place of Earth in the whole solar system." Aside from its lofty purpose, most Arubans would agree it is fine opportunity to learn about their world and enjoy a great family outing!